

Activity:	State Conservation Grants
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Activity Summary

Program Component	2002 Enacted	2003 Estimate	FY 2004			Change From 2003 (+/-)
			Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
State Conservation Grants	140,000	194,600	0	-38,600	156,000	-38,600
Total Requirements	140,000	194,600	0	-38,600	156,000	-38,600

Authorization

16 U.S.C. 460l et.seq. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965, as amended

FY 2004 Base Program Overview

The **State Conservation Grants** activity provides matching grants to States, and through States, to local units of government for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities that provide public access to lands, waters and other recreation resources. The grants provide incentives for continuing State outdoor recreation planning and for greater commitments by State governments to conservation and improvement of recreation resources at every level, emphasizing the role of States and localities in a nationwide recreation system. Every project acquired or developed is protected in perpetuity. Through this partnership with States and local governments, providing recreation opportunity while preserving these areas for future generations can often be accomplished in a more timely and cost-effective way than through Federal action. Nearly 40,000 grants have been awarded since the program was established, with a value of approximately \$3.5 billion.

Performance summary tables are found at the end of this Appropriation.

FY 2002 Program Performance Accomplishments

Significant aspects of the Fiscal Year 2002 program include:

- Awarding of 691 new grants
- 50 percent match by States thereby doubling the recreation investment
- 540 new recreation resources and open space sites protected in perpetuity
- 67,305 acres acquired
- Benefiting recreation sites include picnic areas and campgrounds, sports and playfields, swimming facilities, fishing and boating, trails, natural areas, and passive parks

FY 2003 Program Performance Accomplishments

It is anticipated that by the end of Fiscal year 2003, the grants program accomplishments will include:

- Awarding 780 new grants, to protect new recreation resources and open space sites in perpetuity
- Securing 50 percent match by States thereby doubling the recreation investment
- Acquiring 48,600 acres, thereby preserving open spaces, natural areas, and public parklands

Justification of FY 2004 Budget Request: State Conservation Grants

Request Component	Amount
FY 2003 Budget Estimate	194,600
Programmatic Changes	
• State Conservation Grants	+10,000
• Cooperative Conservation Initiative	-48,600
TOTAL, Program Changes	-38,600
Uncontrollable changes	No change
FY 2003 Budget Request	156,000
Net change	-38,600

State Conservation Grants: -\$48.600 million

The Cooperative Conservation Initiative portion of the State Conservation Grants program, which is requested in the FY 2003 President's Budget, is not proposed for FY 2004. The request included \$48.600 million for State Conservation Grants. The initiative also included funding for grants administration, as reflected in the State Conservation Grants Administration Activity. Because the Department has refocused the CCI to emphasize preexisting programs, this decrease in LWCF State grants will be offset by increased activities in other Departmental programs targeting Cooperative Conservation efforts. This program supports the DOI Recreation goal to Improve Access to Appropriate Recreation Opportunities (DOI goal 3.1) and Ensure a Quality Experience and Enjoyment of Natural and Cultural Resources (DOI goal 3.2) and to Provide and Receive Fair Value in Recreations (DOI goal 3.3).

State Conservation Grants: +\$10.000 million

An increase in funding under the regular apportionment to the states is proposed in order to provide funding to States and local units of government to meet identified recreation needs. This increase will allow for an estimated 25-50 additional grants to States and local units of government for identified recreation needs.